

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 080815Z FEB 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1624

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR HOPEFUL ON IRAQI-IRANIAN SETTLEMENT

REF: BAGHDAD 99; 103; 129

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CERLES CONSIDERS IRAQI RECEPTION OF DAVID ROCKEFELLER, NEW BOEING SALE, AND OTHER RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS IRAQI-IRANIAN TALKS AND GOI-SPONSORED VISIT OF ROWLAND EVANS TO UMM QASR TO DISPEL REPORTS OF SOVIET BASE, AS LOGICAL CONTINUATION OF IRAQ'S MOVES DURING 1974 TOWARD NON-ALIGNMENT, RAPPROCHEMENT WITH NEIGHBORS AND CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT IRAN AND ARAB NEIGHBORS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT BASIC CHANGE IN NATURE OF IRAQI REGIME HAS TAKEN PLACE, CERLES

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IS CONVINCED THAT SUCH CHANGE IS ALREADY REALITY. IF

CONFLICT WITH IRAN COULD BE RESOLVED, HE BELIVES, IRAQ WOULD BECOME ELEMENT FOR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN REGION AND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IRAQ WOULD BE FURTHER DIMINISHED. INVESTMENT THIS REGIME HAS ALREADY MADE IN RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS, CERLES BELIEVES, GIVEN IT VESTED INTEREST IN STABILITY AND PEACE.

2. CERLES IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ON POSSIBILITY OF IRAQI-IRANIAN SETTLEMENT SINCE THEIR INTERESTS (E.E. ON OIL) ARE BEGINNING TO COINCIDE. IN ADDITION, EGYPTIANS, WHO HAVE MAJOR INTEREST IN SEEING CONFLICT RESOLVED, ARE PLAYING EFFECTIVE ROLE. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD EXCHANGED POSITION PAPERS IN ISTANBUL AND WILL MEET AGAIN SOON. HE ALSO HAS REPORT THAT SHAH AND SADDAN HUSSEIN MIGHT MEET AT OPEC SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. LOWRIE

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NNN

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